

# IOWA Department of Natural Résources

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is the state agency charged with conserving and enhancing Iowa's natural resources.

The general direction of DNR operations is set forth in the Code of Iowa 455A.2: "A department of natural resources is created, which has the primary responsibility for state parks and forests, protecting the environment, and managing energy, fish, wildlife, and land and water resources in this state." Governing policies and

#### **DNR Mission:**

To conserve and enhance our natural resources in cooperation with individuals and organizations to improve the quality of life for lowans and ensure a legacy for future generations.

administrative rules are set by the DNR's governor-appointed director and two governor-appointed citizen commissions, the seven-member Natural Resource Commission that oversees fish, wildlife, parks and forestry issues and the nine-member **Environmental Protection** Commission that oversees environmental issues. Each commission meets monthly.

The department is organized into three operational divisions — Conservation and Recreation,

Environmental Services, and Management Services
— and the Director's Office. (The divisions each have 5 functional bureaus or programs.) The goal in choosing the organizational structure is to find integrated solutions

to natural resource issues by developing consistent methods of approaching customer relationships, information gathering and analysis, process management and money savings.

Within the Director's Office are the **Deputy Director** and **Policy and Planning Coordination**functions. **Legal Services** provides legal counsel to the Director's Office and the rest of the department. **Communications** staff publishes the Iowa Outdoors magazine, operates the Springbrook Conservation Education Center north of Guthrie Center, and provides communication products and services for the department.

#### **Conservation and Recreation Division**

The Conservation and Recreation Division is organized into five bureaus: Fisheries, Forestry, Law Enforcement, Parks and Wildlife. It also includes a Policy and Coordination Section consisting of trails, preserves, threatened and endangered species, natural resources interpretation and planning, and a legislative liaison.

The **Wildlife Bureau** maintains about 340,000 acres of public land that provides habitat for game and nongame wildlife, as well as public hunting and other outdoor recreational pursuits. Staff biologists provide wildlife habitat assistance to private landowners, conduct wildlife research, and recommend hunting and trapping seasons. The bureau is active in acquiring additional public wildlife lands from willing sellers. Research and restoration programs are also conducted on a variety of nongame species.

# DNR By The Numbers:

- Provides outdoor recreational opportunities for more than 627,000 licensed hunters, anglers and boaters and nearly 1 million wildlifeenthusiasts.
- Welcomes 14 million visits to 87 state parks each year.
- Develops and manages 425,000 acres of public land, including 87 parks, 450 wildlife areas, 275 lakes and 10 state forests. Iowa parks generate \$155 million in economic activity annually (a party of four spends an average of \$51.50 with each park visit); each acre of public hunting area generates abut \$400 annually to the state economy; lowa averages nearly 7.5 million fishing trips each year, and each fishing trip is worth approximately \$45 to the state's economy.

The **Fisheries Bureau** provides access to public fishing areas and develops fish habitat, controls species, removes rough fish and stocks fishing waters. It operates fish hatcheries throughout the state and conducts research aimed at improving sport fish management. The bureau is also active in developing new public waters to improve angling opportunities, as well as leading the Lakes Restoration program focused on water quality improvement on priority lakes.

The Law Enforcement Bureau's conservation officers enforce laws related to fish, wildlife, boating, snowmobiling and all-terrain vehicles. They assist in wildlife and fish population surveys, provide conservation information to the public, and conduct hunter, boater, ATV and snowmobile safety programs. Law Enforcement supports and encourages water trails education and safety as well as promoting shooting sports activities and the National Archery in the Schools program.

The **Forestry Bureau** provides forestry and prairie technical assistance to Iowa tree, forest and prairie owners and businesses. Services include forestry and prairie management planning, costshare programs and education efforts. The bureau manages more than 45,000 acres of forests for timber, wildlife, watershed protection and recreation. It operates state nurseries in Ames and Montrose, producing 4 million tree and shrub seedlings annually at low cost to the public for erosion control, wildlife habitat and reforestation.

The **Parks Bureau** operates and maintains 87 parks and recreation areas in the state, which provide facilities for camping, cabins, picnicking, trails, swimming, boating and fishing. Typical use throughout the state park system also includes family reunions, weddings, community events and triathlons. The bureau also supervises various programs in recreation planning and resource protection.

# **Environmental Services Division**

The Environmental Services Division consists of five bureaus: Water Quality, Air Quality, Field Services and Compliance, Energy and Waste Management, and Geological Survey and Land Quality.

The Water Quality Bureau manages water protection programs including safe drinking water, wastewater and storm water discharge, industrial pretreatment, state loans for wastewater and drinking water system construction, water quality monitoring, flood plain management and dam safety. The bureau is also involved with nonpoint source pollution prevention projects and animal feeding operation permits.

The **Air Quality Bureau** manages programs to protect air quality in the state including issuance of construction and operating permits for sources of air contaminants, monitoring air quality, and testing emissions from sources.

The Field Services and Compliance Bureau operates out of six field offices across the state. Staff make routine inspections of permitted facilities, handle citizen complaints and respond to spills of hazardous materials. Staff also help local governments, businesses and individuals understand and comply with state and federal laws. If technical assistance and cooperative activities do not achieve compliance, enforcement actions may be taken.

The Energy and Waste Management Bureau is responsible for recommending and carrying out state policies that improve management of energy resources through energy efficiency and the development of renewable energy. The bureau also helps Iowans establish sustainable waste management practices by offering pollution prevention and responsible waste management programs.

The Iowa Geological Survey and Land Quality Bureau collects, synthesizes and interprets information on Iowa's mineral and water resources to ensure they are properly

developed, managed and protected. The bureau provides Geographic Information System services and products, and directs the Water Quality Monitoring Initiative. The bureau also oversees programs to protect land and groundwater resources from underground storage tank leaks and spills, contaminated soils, abandoned hazardous waste sites and accidental spills of hazardous materials.

# **Management Services Division**

The Management Services Division consists of four bureaus and one program: Engineering and Realty Services, Budget and Finance, Customer Service and Information Technology. It also oversees the agency's volunteer program.

The Engineering and Realty Services
Bureau provides engineering, construction
and related services for state-owned
recreational facilities. The bureau acquires
recreational properties, and coordinates land
management practices and the leasing of
DNR land for agricultural purposes. In
addition, they aid soil conservation practices
on state and private lands within the
watersheds of state-owned lakes.

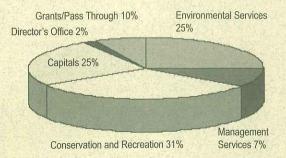
The **Budget and Finance Bureau** coordinates all budget and finance procedures for the department, transactions for grants, cash receipts and contract payments.

The Customer Service Bureau provides support services for both internal and external customers, including processing applications, permits and licenses for hunting, fishing, taxidermy and park use.

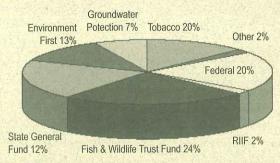
The **Information Technology Bureau** provides computer network and technical support, and maintains e-mail servers throughout the department.

The **Office of Volunteer Services** coordinates the department's Keepers of the Land/AmeriCorps activities around the state.

#### Department of Natural Resources EXPENDITURES FY2007 (\$163 Million)



## Department of Natural Resources REVENUE FY2007 (\$163 Million)



The DNR has a budget of \$163 million from various revenue sources, including various state and federal government programs. Most have very specific, designated uses.

About 12 percent of the DNR's budget comes from state general funds and are most flexible in their use. Federal funds comprise 26 percent of DNR revenue.

# DNR By The Numbers:

- Writes permits for confined animal waste facilities, reviews more than 3,000 manure management plans, permits more than 350 solid waste facilities, and writes more than 2,000 air permits.
- Oversees more than 3,000 underground storage tank sites and manages more than 2,000 sites with leaking tanks. Has active oversight of more than 350 contaminated sites.
- Conducts more than 7,500 inspections, resulting in approximately 240 enforcement orders, the remainder receiving compliance assistance.
- Answers more than 110,000 telephone calls annually. Provides the Iowa Outdoors to more than 31,000 subscribers. Distributes more than 1 million regulations and informational brochures annually.
- On the average, receives more than 150,000 donated hours, valued at \$2.3 million, by nearly 100,000 volunteers.

# DNR Customers:

 2.9 million lowa citizens, including organizations, special interest groups, permit and license holders, landowners, youth and adult education audiences, concerned citizens and more. Agriculture Business and Industry Elected Officials Internal DNR Staff Local Governments News Media State and Federal **Agencies** 

#### **DNR Goals:**

- Iowans will value and engage in our natural resources.
- lowans will have a healthy and safe environment.
- There will be abundant, highquality opportunities for responsible use and enjoyment of natural resources.
  - DNR employees will be our greatest strength.

### Contact Us!

DNR Web Site: www.iowadnr.com Director's Office: (515) 281-5384 General Information: (515) 281-5918 Fax: (515) 281-6794

## A Message from the Director



Dear Iowans,
The DNR is
committed to
improving and
enhancing the natural
resources of our
beautiful state.

I would like to share three core beliefs the DNR is incorporating into our

programs, our relationships with customers, and the way we do business:

- 1. Focus on the Resource Iowa needs to be innovative in creating the best result for the natural resource. That means finding new partnerships and new resources for delivering projects, while breaking down processes and barriers.
  - 2. Coach for Compliance Our goal

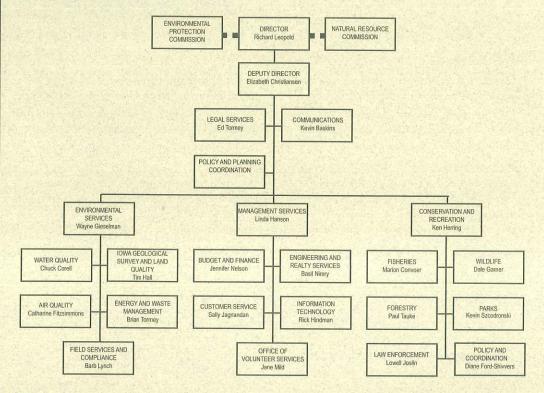
when working with business and industry is to assist them with solutions for complying with regulations. As an agency, we are working to improve our service so we can achieve compliance in our state.

3. Foster Local Leadership – Real and sustainable solutions happen at the local level. Ultimately, care and protection of the resource are in the hands of those who live near it, and we will encourage citizens and local groups to work side by side and make a lasting impact for the future.

We look forward to working with you to protect the water, air and land of Iowa, while creating opportunities for our habitats and wildlife to thrive, and for our citizens to enjoy them.

Sincerely,

Richard Leopold, Director



**DNR Employees** 

The DNR has 1,142 full-time equivalents (FTE), 968 of which are permanent employees. Seasonal employees, interns and vacancies comprise remaining positions. Males (76 percent) outnumber females, and Caucasians (94 percent) outnumber minorities. The average employee is 45 years old with 15 years of tenure. About 77

percent of staff have more than five years experience, and 35 percent have more than 20 years. All have completed high school, while 76 percent have earned bachelor's degrees or higher, including master's degrees (18 percent) and doctorate level degrees (4 percent). The largest position classes are professional, requiring training in scientific, engineering and conservation fields.